

City of Athens Arts, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20th, 2021

Time: 5:30pm

Attendees: Alan Swank, Gregory Lavelle, Travis Gatling, Daniel Brown, Shauna Switzer, Terri Moore

Meeting Called to order by Alan

No additions/subtractions to agenda

Approval of agenda

- Daniel wants add the discussion about Lesser Celandine at Sells Park
 - o This belongs under Parks and is an invasive

Approval of Minutes

- Greg motions for approval, seconded by Travis
- Approved as submitted

Old Business

- Friends of Arts, Parks, Recreation – Shauna
 - o Started on long form for 501c3 nonprofit status
 - o Limited time to work on because of busy schedule of all involved; Shauna and Erin will be meeting next Monday to start working on this again
 - o Resources needed?
 - Accounting advice, wide variety of board members
- Parks: Bike Path
 - o Bike path concerns and what needs done to strengthen and continue to promote this system
 - o Eastern bike path new extension near holzer clinic area; after going under the bridge from holzer at over pass there is a patch of rocks between the road and bik path that gets pushed into path from the road (pictures shown)
 - Could we pave this or get a volunteer group to sweep this weekly?
 - Is this area in city jurisdiction?
 - Terri says yes. We maintain up to just before Holzer.
 - Terri has reached out to Jessica Adine from EPW and David Riggs from Code to determine who appropriate person is to discuss signage at businesses, etc.

- Maintenance challenge
 - Dangerous area
 - Priority to get this taken care of
 - Additional signage suggested for Menards entrance/exit to attempt to keep cars from sitting in the bikeway when waiting to turn out from Menard's
 - No crosswalk signal button to cross at Menards intersection
 - Discussion about bringing together APR team, Daniel and anyone else relevant to meet in order to get an action plan to correct these issues
 - Need for consistent signage placement
- Dog Park Area Solar Project by Third Sun Solar
 - Drawings shown with possible plan to have solar panels, re-adjust dog park space and add (3) tennis and (4) pickleball courts
 - Current courts are not in a good place as flooding repeatedly damages the courts and it is not sustainable to continue to spend money on repairs at this time; recommendation for new courts
 - Alan read an email from a concerned player regarding the poor condition of the tennis courts
 - New courts could be paid for using 273 fund levy money
 - Goal – would like to see completed by 2022 if money is available
 - May not need to go out to bid if can use Sourcewell
 - Greg makes a motion to recommend that Terri as director of APR pursue the bid process to get an estimated cost of 3 tennis courts and 3 pickleball courts with a goal completion of 2022
 - Travis seconds the motion
 - Motion put forth by Greg Lavelle is approved by all present board members
- Parks: Lesser Celandine at Sells Park (presented by Daniel Brown)
 - Small invasive plant; grows low to ground with large root system making it difficult to remove fully
 - Suggestion to remove manually rather than use herbicide
 - Located in Sells park to left of concrete pathway at entrance
 - Now is an ideal time to remove as it has not spread extensively yet
 - Concern for native plants/loss of diversity if this species persists or spreads
 - Question brought up that with instances like this, what suggestions are there to address this without over taxing the park maintenance staff?
 - Volunteer groups common but we do not have that established here
 - Ann Bonner with ODNR is good resource for identifying and pulling together people to come up with strategy for items like this
 - Can appoint someone on APR staff to be point person to coordinate these efforts

- Could utilize locals and even children would be able to assist if interested; children that participate in project could be offered a free pool pass
- Recreation: Pool
 - Head lifeguards and head cashier are on staff and cleaning/prepping
 - Concrete repairs, painting have been completed
 - Current focus is filling pool and balancing chemicals
 - Direction of the mayor and Jack Pepper (Health Dept) regarding opening:
 - Monday nights city council will discuss amendment for mask ordinance so those vaccinated will no longer be required to wear a mask
 - As of June 2nd, there will be no longer be a limited capacity
 - Concern is what we do first three days of pool opening that order has not yet been lifted
 - Discussion regarding opening at 35% capacity or members only during May 29th – June 1st
 - Resident/nonresident fees for season passes have been implement in line with the APR advisory board's recommendation
 - Head guards and APR staff did not recommend sessions for this season
 - Due to restrictions still in place, pool will need to follow mandates from May 29th through June 1st which includes sessions
 - Could function as a soft opening for staff to get feel for pool operations with a reduced crowd
 - Swim lessons – currently 65% full
 - New this year - swim test will be held in advance of lessons this year
 - Public Swim
 - Bands will be given to kids 12 and over for those that have passed the swim test to swim in the deep end
 - Two colors this year – one for swimming with parent and one for swimming on their own
- Status of Arts West
 - Accident at facility where a vehicle ran into the lower level of the building
 - Andrew Chiki heading this
 - No estimate from claims adjuster at this time but do have the engineers structural assessment which is around \$100,000
 - Will require some structural bracing
 - Currently building is boarded up and certain areas are blocked off
 - Question brought up if driver was insured?
 - Terri believes so but not sure of level of coverage
 - Should not be a cost to us
 - Possibility of art camp during July 4th weekend

- Summer Camp
 - o 100% full; 56 kids each week
 - o Overseen by Erin Helms this year
- Start Smart Soccer, Baseball, and Basketball have been well received with high participation numbers
 - o Using OU coaching staff and students so no instructor expense
- Misc.
 - o Alan discussed email exchange between him and Ron Lucas, HR Director regarding staff concerns
 - From Ron, currently 4 seasonal maintenance staff. Waiting on response from seasonal maintenance cemetery position. Reviewing applicants for part time cemetery maintenance position. Assistant grounds keeper scheduled to start June 1st. Full time grounds keeper exam is scheduled for Friday May 28th with position filled by middle of June
- Discussion surrounding if should take month of July off as have in the past and as City Council typically does
 - o Greg would like to meet due to heavy parks and recreation use during that month and cites ease of meeting via Zoom
 - o Daniel and Travis agrees with meeting in July
 - o Final decision – Board will meet in July
- Greg moves to adjourn meeting, Daniel seconds
- Meeting is adjourned.